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MEDIA RELEASE: Soldier in Airborne accident identified

DATE: Oct. 3, 2013

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Fort Benning Airborne student who died in a parachute training accident on Oct. 1 is identified as Pvt. Mario M. Jekov, 19.

Pvt. Jekov, who was born in Dominican Republic, entered the Army in March as a supply specialist, where he attended the enlisted language course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in San Antonio. Following that, he went to Fort Jackson, S.C, for basic training, then Fort Lee, Va., for advanced training. Jekov arrived at Fort Benning for basic Airborne School in September. His next duty assignment would have been with the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

“This is a tragic loss,” said Col. Kyle E. Lear, commander of the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. “Since Pvt. Jekov came into the Army, this young Soldier showed dedication and selfless service, as evidenced in the many courses he successfully completed in such a short time. We are truly saddened to lose a member of our Army Family and a Soldier with such potential.”

This accident remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

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